

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A power converter comprising: a rectifier arrangement having inputs coupled to AC power supply terminals; a pair of series-connected capacitors coupled across output terminals of the rectifier arrangement; a switch coupled between one of said AC power supply terminals and a midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors, the switch being open if a first AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, and the switch being closed if a second AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, the first AC voltage exceeding the second AC voltage; and an overvoltage protection circuit coupled between at least one of the inputs of the rectifier arrangement and the midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors. A power converter as claimed in claim 1, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising a series connection of zener diodes having opposite conductivity directions.
3. (Previously presented) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, the overvoltage protection circuit further comprising a resistor in series with the zener diodes.
4. (Currently amended) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising diodes each connected parallel to a corresponding one of the capacitors.
5. (Previously presented) A power converter as claimed in claim 2, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising resistors connected in parallel to the zener diodes.

6. (Currently amended) A power converter as claimed in claim 12, the overvoltage protection circuit being coupled across the switch.

7. (Currently amended) A power converter comprising: a rectifier arrangement having inputs coupled to AC power supply terminals; a pair of series-connected capacitors coupled across output terminals of the rectifier arrangement; a switch coupled between one of said AC power supply terminals and a midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors, the switch being open if a first AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, and the switch being closed if a second AC voltage is applied to the AC power terminals, the first AC voltage exceeding the second AC voltage; and an overvoltage protection circuit coupled between at least one of the inputs of the rectifier arrangement and the midpoint of the pair of series-connected capacitors A power converter as claimed in claim 1, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising a first branch between the midpoint and a first one of the rectifier arrangement inputs, and a second branch between the midpoint and a second one of the rectifier arrangement inputs.

8. (Previously presented) A power converter as claimed in claim 7, each branch comprising a series connection of a diode and a zener diode having opposite conductivity directions.

9. (Previously presented) A power converter as claimed in claim 8, the overvoltage protection circuit comprising resistors connected in parallel to the zener diodes.